

## **RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN**

**WHEREAS**, article X, section 3 (1) of the City of Austin charter requires that the Planning Commission:

“Review and make recommendations to the council regarding the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive plan (as defined in section 5 of this article) or element or portion thereof prepared under authorization of the city council and under the direction of the city manager and responsible city planning staff”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission recommended and the City Council authorized 1) an interim update of the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan, and 2) a study of additional long term planning needs of the City of Austin: and

**WHEREAS**, an Interim Update of the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan was completed with its adoption by the City Council on November 7, 2008: and

**WHEREAS**, after extensive deliberation and research the Planning Commission recommended that a new comprehensive plan be developed, as described in the Austin City Charter, to replace, when completed, the interim update of the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan: and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council provided resources to assist with the creation of a new comprehensive plan with the approval of the 2008 – 2009 Budget: and

**WHEREAS**, a request for qualifications was issued on September 30, 2008 to retain consultant services to assist with the development of a new comprehensive plan: and

**WHEREAS**, on February 12, 2009, the three finalist consultant teams presented their qualifications to City Council, met with the public, and answered questions from Members of the City Council: and

**WHEREAS**, The City Council continued a decision to select a consultant team until April 23, 2009 in order to ask additional questions and provide more opportunities for public input.

### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- That the new comprehensive plan be developed in such a manner that the citizens of Austin are the “makers” of the plan, and, when completed, become the “owners” of the plan.
- That the appropriate role of a consultant team and city staff is to assist and facilitate the citizens of Austin in developing a new comprehensive plan

for review by the Planning Commission and consideration for adoption by the City Council, as provided by the Austin City Charter.

- That the Planning Commission finds that now is an opportune time to develop a new comprehensive plan for the following reasons:
  - 1) The economic slowdown provides a rare opportunity to complete a new comprehensive plan. Fewer development review items on Planning Commission and City Council agendas provide the luxury of time and planning perspectives less influenced by reactions to specific development proposals.
  - 2) Completing the plan during the economic slowdown will prepare Austin to move towards implementation as the economy recovers.
  - 3) Proceeding now allows the City of Austin to take maximum advantage of recently completed and ongoing regional planning initiatives such as:
    - Envision Central Texas,
    - CAMPO 2035 Transportation Plan,
    - Joint planning initiatives of AISD, Travis County, and the City of Austin,
    - Cap-Metro and the City of Austin's transit initiatives,
    - Planning for the SH-130 corridor
  - 4) Proceeding now allows coordination with The City of Austin's extensive sustainability and climate change initiatives.
  - 5) Proceeding now allows coordination with the City of Austin's newly created Transportation Department and its transportation planning initiatives.
- That developing a comprehensive plan for a large city with an active and engaged citizenry has a better chance of being successfully completed and implemented if it has the benefit of assistance from an experienced consultant team.
- The Planning Commission recommends that the City Council select one of the three finalists to assist with the creation of a new comprehensive plan and authorize the negotiation of a scope of services and contract with that team.

**PASSED ON AN 8-0 VOTE, April 14, 2009**